

Based on current resource information, the potential for grazing activity in this area is limited. Proximity to agricultural homesteads in Subunit c and road access raise the potential for use somewhat. Existing and future agricultural homesteads in Subunit c may generate demand for grazing areas.

The SCS is updating and expanding the detailed soil survey to cover the Kashwitna Unit. In 1990, SCS collected additional information on grazing potential in the Kashwitna Unit (see Chapter 4, Research). Data include the current annual production by species of understory and non-forest vegetation and the understory canopy cover. SCS is developing interpretations of soil types for grazing and will describe the range resources in the updated soil survey.

Table 3: Abundance of *Calamagrostis* grass by cover type*

This information shows the extent of *Calamagrostis* grass cover in each vegetation type and how often *Calamagrostis* appeared in sample plots in each type. *Calamagrostis* is the most common grass in this area. These numbers are averages for the entire Susitna Basin -- they are not specific to the Kashwitna Unit.

Cover type	% canopy cover	frequency in plots	average annual production of grasses (lb/ac)
Mixed forest			
22 young, closed	10%	81%	100
24 medium, closed	13%	96%	129
26 old, closed	3%	100%	188
32 medium, open	13%	100%	204
White spruce forest			
31 open, short	10%	75%	320
33 open, tall	3%	83%	126
Black spruce forest			
41 short, closed	2%	70%	116
42 tall, closed	2%	75%	16
43 short, open	1%	29%	93
Non-forest			
61 alder-willow	12%	92%	163
63 <i>Calamagrostis</i> grassland	30%	100%	1,333
65 herbaceous tundra	3%	74%	122
68 sphagnum bogs	2%	60%	433
69 sphagnum bog-shrubland	2%	77%	181

*Types 43, 65, and 69 have small amounts (3% cover) of other grass species. Grasses present include *Agrostis* sp., *Festuca* sp., and unidentified species.

Source: USDA Soil Conservation Service. 1986. Timber and Vegetation Resources of the Susitna River Basin -- Alaska Report. Anchorage, AK. 49 pp + appendices.